

Fort Belknap Indian Community

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 3/19/09
SB 337



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Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Tribal Govt.)
Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Elected to administer the affairs of the community and
to represent the Assiniboiné and the Gros Ventre
Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation)

Testimony to the Montana Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee
By Tom Jones, Senior Game Warden, Fort Belknap Fish and Wildlife Department

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name is Tom Jones, I'm from the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation where I'm the Senior Game Warden for the Fish and Wildlife Department/Buffalo Project. Along with my duties as Game Warden, I have also worked with the buffalo since 1993, assisting in roundups, field harvesting, fence repair and other areas where needed

I would like to go on record to state that the Fort Belknap Tribes oppose Senate Bill 337.

My reservation has submitted a proposal to host disease free buffalo coming out of the Yellowstone project in 2010 or 2011. We support the efforts of the other two tribes that have also submitted proposals, the Fort Peck Tribes and the Wind River Tribes. Wind River was awarded the buffalo coming out of the program for 2009.

If we do get the buffalo in 2010 or 2011 they will be kept as a separate herd in a secure pasture along the same design as the fence that keeps the buffalo in the National Bison Range at Moise.

Thank you for your time.

Tom Jones